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Subject: Survey of the Arab Political Situation Regarding Palestine for the Week Ending 28 April 1948 Report No: RP-329
Date of Information: 28-29 April 1948

Place Acquired: Jernud on Date Acquired: 28 April 1948

Evaluation: B-3 Date of Report: 29 April 1948
Source: **Arab Military Activity in Palestine.**

1. Negotiations among Arab leaders on Palestine are currently proceeding at the highest level. Of the several conflicting groups, the purely Palestinian one represented by the MUFTI is the weakest and 'ABDALLAH momentarily the strongest. An Egyptian anti-'ABDALLAH position, reportedly instigated by Egyptian Palace circles, is said to be crystallizing. The plan of the SHARAFIYYAH group in Syria (see RP-301) to use the Palestine disorders as a lever for overthrowing existing Arab dynasties has failed but the British and influential Arab circles throughout the Middle East are said to be viewing it with great favor, and the former are reportedly in the process of transferring their support in part from Syria to Trans-Jordan. The reversals suffered by the forces under 'AMR 'ABDALLAH are said to have caused a further setback to SHARAFIYYAH's plans.

2. As a result of the current failures of the main Liberation Army, its future structure and command are said to be at stake. The tendency now is reportedly to rely on the Arab Legion, especially since it is not considered likely that the regular armies of other Arab states will participate in the Palestinian campaign.

3. It is predicted that in the event that the Arab Legion is defeated—which source considers not unlikely—the SHARAFIYYAH group may regain lost prestige and influence. Such an eventuality is said to have motivated Syrian circles to play a waiting game for the present, hoping that 'ABDALLAH will turn his fingers in Palestine.

4. In this morsel of political intrigue, the Palestinian Arabs have reportedly been completely submerged, particularly in view of the loss in power of their self-appointed leader, the MUFTI. Palestinian opposition leaders are said to be throwing their full weight behind 'ABDALLAH in order to break completely any hold which the MUFTI still have on the local population.

5. Concentrations of Egyptian troops on the southern frontier of Palestine, and of Syrian and Lebanese troops on the northern have been reported. Source believes that these troops may be so stationed in order to exert political pressure rather than to conduct military operations.

6. Discussions are said to be in progress about the establishment of a British Military Mission to act in an observational capacity if the truce negotiations fail. This mission is reportedly to be headed by GILLI Pasha, and to consist of British officers, mainly

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These are also in the U.S. (including) certain circles in
the U.S. seem to be in favor of this to an im-
portant degree. The others are still to be in the
minority. But the Soviet Union, the U.S.S.R., I believe, as well as the U.S.S.R.
believe that there was a desire by the U.S. to be
engaged in, or to be in touch with the U.S. states in general for such occa-
sions. These circles, however, are bound; for a recognition
of socialist soviet Russia, especially when they do not regard the sup-
port which the latter has given to the U.S. as irreconcilable.